Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
W8BM & W8HBI Special Event Calls K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75

March 2013 VOLUME 43 ISSUE 3

CARS MEMBER TAKES TOP HONORS IN HF CONTEST!

DETAILS FURTHER ON DOWN THE PAGE.

FROM THE PREZ

I sincerely hope those who attended our February dinner meeting enjoyed themselves. There were a lot of very positive comments on the net the next two weeks. I was disappointed to hear one member did not come because he could not afford to buy dinner. Somehow the message did not get to him that dinner was optional. Several members came to the meeting and did not eat dinner, which was fine. That is the way we want to have it. The important thing is we have good meeting attendance, so it is always emphasized that buying dinner is optional. I will make certain to have a conversation with the individual who did not come so we can resolve any issues. We have picnic meetings in June, July and August where Darren, K8DMT, always comes early and has a good fire going. Unfortunately, I could count on one hand the people who actually cook out. That's OK, and it is the same principle as a dinner meeting, the important thing is to attend. By the way, we always have large turnouts for the picnic meetings.

Our guest speaker at the last meeting came up with an idea I think we may want to pursue. He suggested that anyone involved in public service communications, should have the capability of being net control. At his time we have seven net controllers who run our weekly nets. I set up our schedule on a quarterly basis, and the rotation stays pretty much the same. He suggested we rotate in a guest net controller so someone gets the experience without committing to be a permanent net controller. I think this is a great idea. We have a script to go by, and I would be willing to let the guest net controller to use my station if he or she in not comfortable with their own equipment. I would also be able to back them up, for whatever reason. We will discuss this at the next meeting, so anyone who is interested that would be a good opportunity to volunteer. If, someone is interested and will not be at the meeting, please contact me and we will talk about it. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

73, Toby, WT8O

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FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society February Membership Meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 12th of the month at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at Alfonzo's Restaurante, located on West 130th. There were 32 members and 3 guests in attendance.

After introductions the January minutes were approved as published in the February Wobbly Oscillator by Toby, WT8O.

President Toby, WT8O, asked that we vote in as a new member, Walt Selmer, KD8TWL. Walt paid his dues for 2013. Members present went thru the membership approval process and Walt was approved.

CARS Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC, gave the Treasurer's report and reminded all to please consider the purchase of gift cards through the CARS gift card program. Bob also asked members to consider the purchase of baseball style caps, shirts, and jackets with the CARS logo on them. He was putting together an order soon.

Toby, WT8O, welcomed everybody to the first dinner meeting of the year and mentioned that the new net results will start from 12/01/2012 thru 2013.

Toby also reported that Field Day weekend will be June 22 & 23, that the class of operation will be decided by the field committee. He said that the Field Day crew could use some extra people to help setup on field day.

Toby asked the members to have respect for the meeting, any conversations should be done before or after the meeting, also the spots by the Busch building please reserve them for people that have physical problems.

Toby reported that the constitution revamping is on the table, committee still working on proper language.

The program committee is working on the yearly programs for 2013. If you have any ideas, call Gary, NI8Z, or Toby WT8O.

Vice President Gary, NI8Z, stated that the March VE Session/ board meeting will be back at the Independence Old Town Hall. Sunshine: "No Sunshine, which is great" Gary stated.

Dave Dressler, KD8V, reported on the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School Radio Club, saying that the club station would be operating the ARRL School Club Roundup the week of February 11th thru the 15th.

Secretary Dwaine Modock, K8ME, reported that the CARS bus to the Dayton Hamvention® will go again on May 18th, 2013. Check the CARS website for details. You can also order your Hamvention tickets thru the cars website.

Toby, WT8O, mentioned that the evening's program would be a presentation on public service events by Scott Philips, N8SX, the Ohio Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator.

Toby, asked the members present to thank the refreshment committee: K8VJG, K8DMT, and WB8ROK with a round of applause even though their fine efforts were not required at this meeting.

With no other new or old business Toby, WT8O, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. After the meeting the 50/50 winner was Betty Check. Her portion was $23.00 and CARS share of $24.00 was added to the treasury.

Submitted by CARS Secretary Dwaine Modock, K8ME

Below are some photos of the meeting taken by Ken Osicki, K8OAE.

Ron K8VJG, Arp K8ARP, Bob KD8NBB, & Ron WA8ZJV enjoying their meals.

New member, Walt, KD8TWL

Terry KB8DTC, Dave KD8V, &
Pat KD8DYI

KEN'S JUNKBOX

By Ken Osicki, K8OAE

I decided during the last bad weather in late January and early February to throw together another dipole antenna. I couldn't believe that my last one was downed by a falling branch almost two years ago! I had replaced that disaster with a 31-foot vertical antenna that worked well on 40 meters but which was dead anywhere else in the spectrum. I wanted to add 20 meters, too.

Thumbing through my copy of ***ARRL's Wire Antenna Classics***, one article quickly caught my attention, "Four Bands, Off Center," by Bill Wright, G0FAH. Could I possibly get 40, 20, and something else, too? If all went well, the plan promised me 40, 20, 10 meters with a 4:1 balun, and 15 meters with a 1:1 balun.

I had everything required for the construction. One 23 foot leg of wire, one 46 foot length, a length of 300-ohm ladder line, and both baluns.

A couple of snowy days were well placed in the calendar, making the indoor part of the construction an enjoyable excuse to be in the house. A rapid thaw, and up went the antenna. Would it work?

The last Thursday in January was the first test. Could I check in to the Parma Radio Club 10-meter net? You bet! What a pleasure. SWR was still a bit off, though, and the next day (now in the snow again), down came the antenna for a bit of pre-calculated shortening. My antenna analyzer was showing nice numbers and the antenna was ready for another test.

The next Friday, after a busy week with no ham activity, I was monitoring 40-meters at just before noon when I heard the call. "CQ CQ CQ W1AW calling CQ QRZ?" I quickly picked up my mike and the call came again. I responded, hoping to get a first call into Newington, CT. My call was acknowledged almost immediately with a nice 59 report. John K2YH was in the final minutes of his turn operating the ARRL station, and was doing a beautiful job, taking full advantage of the opportunity. He was eager, though, to finish up. The snow was already beginning to build up as the latest "storm of the century" moved in and he wasn't looking forward to his drive home. But my antenna had done its job and I hope he got home OK.

The next day, Saturday, I decided to try for a Special Events contact, and hit the Edison Memorial event in Milan, OH. again on 40 meters. When I reported my location as Broadview Heights, the operator came back as being familiar with the area because his wife grew up in Brooklyn and they often come back to visit. Small world? My wife also grew up in Brooklyn, and we lived there for 20 years after we were married, so we probably were neighbors with them, but had never met. Who knows? They may even have live at the other end of our street!

OK. Now I have an antenna that works well on 40 and 10 meters. Do I have 20? The next day is Sunday. I decide to monitor 20 meters and here comes an opportunity to find out. "CQ contest, CQ contest QRZ?" I come back with my call and soon I'm in a QSO with the Port City Amateur Radio Club W1WQM in Greenland, NH. Surrounded by 27 inches of snow, they were

continued on next page....

enjoying a wonderful, warm amateur radio day inside competing in the New Hampshire CQ Contest. I hope they did well. If they win I can say that my super off-balance dipole antenna helped them.

By the way, I don't know if I'll be checking in on 15-meters, but my analyzer says the antenna is good to go, and my AT-200 Pro Autotuner is telling me my signal out is close to 1:1. And that's without changing out the 4:1 balun! So my off-balance dipole is a winner. Thanks, Bill G0FAH, and thanks ARRL for a fine publication. Now, if only those branches will stay away.

CARS MEMBER WINS TOP HONORS IN HF CONTEST

Congratulations to Metro Sinko, W8MET for earning total high score, high score phone and high score CW in the CQ-WE contest. CQ-WE stands for *CQ - Western Electric*, the company whose ham employees originated the contest. The annual CQ-WE Contest is open to all Radio Amateurs. The objective is to contact as many *Bell System* Radio Amateurs as possible via ham radio. A Bell System amateur is any ham who is a current or former employee of any part of the pre-divestiture Bell System -- that is, any company that was spun off from or shares a part of its heritage with the original AT&T Corporation. Examples include the current-day AT&T, Bell Labs, Western Electric, the Baby Bells, Bellcore, NCR, Alcatel-Lucent, Avaya, Agere, as well as other companies that have sprung from them. Normally held the second full weekend in November, the contest combines a spirit of competitive contesting with the chance to relax, have fun, and renew acquaintances with old friends and colleagues while fostering friendships with new ones.

While tuning the bands in 2006 Metro stumbled on this contest-event by hearing the exchange given. Since then he has participated each year with ranking such as 52nd place,8th place, 3rd place,2nd place and now 1st place. Any ham operator can enter, BELL or NON-BELL and SSB ,CW ,DIGITAL, and QRP are the categories. The hours of operation are on Saturday and Sunday as follows; Starting at 2pm till 6pm, break for 2 hours, and then operation again from 8pm till Midnight. This schedule is for both days and Metro says it is a lot of fun. If anyone has questions concerning this event, just contact Metro. November 9, and 10th, 2013 is the next event.

Metro, W8MET, at his operating position.

53rd Annual CQ-Western Electric Contest
November 10-11, 2012
Individual High Total Score, High Phone and CW
Awarded to
Metro Sinko, W8MET

Metro's certificate.

IS IT A RAT OR A HAMSTER ?

Submitted by George Pindroh, K8KR

Steve, K8SAS says "It's a hamster George!" I say it's a rat! (Or maybe a Gerbal.)

HAM RADIO SHUTS DOWN SUPER BOWL

By Andy Holmes, K5PO
Excerpted from HAM HIJINKS
Submitted by Gary Dewey, NI8Z
Reprinted with permission of the author.

New Orleans, La.; Feb. 4, 2013 - Details are beginning to emerge as to the cause of the Super Bowl power outage. The New Orleans Police Department issued the following statement at 4:15 p.m. local time: We have evidence that indicates the stadium's master electrical control unit suffered radio frequency-based damage early in the 3rd quarter, causing the failure of the control unit, and ultimately the power outage." Said NOPD Captain Ronald Wick. "While the investigation continues, we do not anticipate criminal charges to be filed."

The Bayou Bishop Amateur Radio Club was excited to promote Super Bowl activities for the week with a "special event station," a common activity in the amateur radio community. Operating as "Whiskey Five Bowl", the radio club was racking up contacts.

"It was kinda hard to get a good copy through the cheering," said club president Amos Mason. "But, we were getting quite a pileup going! I was operating with my Yaesu FT-897D on battery power when it happened. At first, all I noticed was that the local QRN dropped from S8 down to nothing, which was awesome! Then I looked around and saw all the lights were off."

Mason, a resident of nearby Kenner, admits he wasn't familiar with NFL football when a club member suggested the special event station idea at a recent club meeting. "He said he wanted to see the Ravens play, and I thought he was talking about the Ornithology Club meeting in Avondale. I hadn't a clue!"

Mason offers his sincere apologies to those that may have been bothered by the power outage. "Clearly the numbskulls running this place need to get some RF shielding on their power control. Given the low power I was running, I'm surprised all the cell phones around here don't shut the power down too."

The radio club has been banned from the Super Bowl grounds, but is already planning a special event for next year, to commemorate the day the lights went out at the dome.

Ham Hijinks: The very latest ham radio news of the funny variety. The names are made up; so are the stories. ***Or are they?!***

ARRL SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z & Tom Wayne, WB8N

The School Club Roundup activty at the Copley Middle School radio station, WA8CMS, during the week of Feb. 11-15 was another resounding success. The radio and antenna worked better than adequately. The station was heard by at least 165 other stations including DX stations.

A great deal of success was due to the efforts of Dave Dressler, KD8V, has created a wonderful environment for the students at the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School Radio Club. Students Ryan, Carson, Santos, Josh, Gavin, Ben, Steve, Jacob, Joe, Dwayne, Lexii, Eddie, Justin, Bryce, Jae, Jaren, Vinny, Tyler, Frank,and Riley all made at least one contact. Ryan, Carson, Santos, Eddie, Justin, & Bryce all made more than 10 each.

The log has been submitted. We think that this effort will show WA8CMS being in the top ten of all schools in it's classification.

The station operated in the contest Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, for about 6 hours each day, the limit for the contest. We didn't operate Tuesday due to some of us having prior commitments. WA8CMS worked 29 states, 4 Canadian provinces, 8 foreign countries, 2 radio club stations, and 19 school stations for a total of 165 contacts. We had a lot of fun working with the students, and also operating where there were no students available.

The C.A.R.S. members supporting this effort were Tom WB8N, Metro W8MET, Dave KD8V, Toby WT8O, Ron WA8ZJV, Terry KB8DTC, Pat KD8DYI, and Gary NI8Z. Brad Bennett, W8WEN, who is an advisor at the Copley High School and helps Dave, KD8V with the radio club there, made some contacts in the School Club Roundup from WA8CHS the high school station call, but was kept busy with parent teacher conferences going on during the SCR.

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We intend to operate the School Club Roundup again in October, either from the middle school again or at the high school. We operated at the high school last October. Below are some photos from the SCR, taken by NI8Z.

W8MET & WB8N mentoring an op.

This guy had the script memorized !

Student op studying the script we prepared for the event.

Pat Dressler with some of the students awaiting their turn at the microphone.

Dr. Dressler, (as he is known at the school) KD8V with a student op.

"CQ CQ CQ School Club Roundup. This is WA8CMS calling CQ."

TOPBAND: GENIUS I TELLS YA, PURE GENIUS

By Gary Smith, KA1J
Submitted by Gary Dewey, NI8Z
As published in the TopBand Reflector
Reprinted with permission.

So here we go, The first VU2 I've ever heard on TopBand and I can hear him faintly but clearly. Turn amp on, check. Switch to 160 INV-L, Check. Switch in dummy to set amp, check. Flip band switch to 160, Check. Roll Tune cap to right area, check. Adjust load to right area, check. Adjust the HI-Z array to pick up his signal as clearly as possible, check. Fiddle with sub Rx in the K3 for best clarity with narrow filtering, check. Wait for 3 minutes to pass & the tubes are nicely heated. Amp engaged, check. Adjust for 1,300W on the LP100A, Check. Wait for the VU to listen for the next call and pounce when the timing seems right, check. Nada. Trying again, nada. Try 20 more times trying to improve my pounce timing, nada. His signal fading, amazing how well the Rx ant is picking him up, fidgeting in chair, moderately frustrated, check. Look at antenna switch & see Dummy load is still engaged, check.

Chastise self with a 5 letter word starting with I & ending with T, check.

Disengage Dummy and connect to the 160M INV-L, check. First shot & he comes back to me & now in the bag, check.

Calling DX on your dummy load means there are two dummys in the shack...

Looks down, shuffles feet...

CARS BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

Bruce Bacik, N8DJX, 3/31/1942
Kim Balach, KD8FTU, 3/31/1988
Michael Cegelski, K8EHP, 3/21/1942
Blaine Colman, KA8KPB, 3/18/1946
Tony Hackenberg, N8SK, 3/20/1951
Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, 3/27/1952
Mark Moro, WJ8WM, 3/30/1962
Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC, 3/18/1946
David Ricon, NF8O, 3/3/1947
Marc Rubin, KB8QHJ, 3/25/1966
Congratulations to all & many happy returns!

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED....

Of Old Man Winter that is! I sure hope the Pennsylvania & Ohio ground hogs were right in predicting an early spring! As I sit here writing this It isn't doing anything outside. Just being cold. Earlier today however, it was trying to snow. We had rain yesterday. Oh well, I guess that's Northeastern Ohio weather for ya!

I was able to get out in the yard the other day and check on the condition of my antennas. The quad beam appeared to be ok, as well as my inverted vee. I found that one of the guywires on my Big SteppIR vertical had broken however, so I repaired that. Lucky that was all I found.

BUS TO DAYTON

It won't be long and it will be time for the great Dayton Hamvention®. If you have never been there, and even if you are a Hamvention® veteran, the CARS bus to Dayton is a good way to go, especially if you can only get away for one day. And with the gas prices the way they are now, it's a heck of a deal. The bus leaves early Saturday morning, makes a stop for breakfast as Denny's, and arrives at the Hamvention® gate in time for the opening of the flea market. You can sleep on the trip down. If you make any purchases at the Hamvention® you can take them back to the bus and stow them in the luggage compartment. You can even go back to the bus for a quick nap if you so desire. The bus heads back home around 5:30 p.m. with a stop at a fast food restaurant. You can sleep on the ride home if you so desire.The bus is filling up fast so make your reservations as soon as you can. You can do that on the CARS website. You can even get your Hamvention»® ticket on line, through the CARS website.

MORE ON THE DAYTON HAMVENTION®

Our esteemed Vice President, Gary Dewey, NI8Z, is planning presentation on the Dayton Hamvention® experience for the March meeting. Should be interesting, especially for those that have never been there. Maybe his presentation will convince you to take the plunge and go this year. It is an experience you'll never forget. The largest outdoor flea market I've ever seen, and every possible ham radio related vender indoors. All Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, are all there. Don't

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forget to get your free Yaesu hat! You'll get to meet all the ARRL officials and staff, as well as ham radio celebs such as Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Bob Heil, K9EID, and many others. There are ham radio related forums all day long as well. All in all, I can guarantee you that you'll have a great time.

CARS WEEKLY CLUB NET

As most of you know, CARS holds a weekly net every Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. Many of you do not check into the net for one reason or another, but it is something you really should consider taking part in if you have the time. Don't worry about your favorite show on TV. Record it like I do. The net is a lot of fun, informative, and who knows, you just might get the answer to the weekly trivia question correct! At present there are six net controllers who take turns running the net. We are getting more & more check-ins of late it seems, with one member checking in from sunny Florida via echo-link. One ham checks in from Ravenna OH and he's not even a CARS member. Another who is member checks in from Birmingham Ohio, waaay out west. So mark it on your calender. Every Wednesday night at 9:00. I'll be listening for you.

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Due to popular demand, the February membership meeting was a dinner meeting. Several restaurants were checked out and it was decided to hold the meeting at Alfonso's Restaurante, an Italian restaurant on W. 130th near Sprague Rd. Dinner was available at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at the regular time of 7:30. We had a good turnout, with over 30 members and guests present. I everyone who ate, seemed to enjoy their meals. I only wish I had known about the Tuesday Spaghetti special. Then I wouldn't have let myself get talked into a vegetarian pizza by someone who will go unnamed but whose callsign is NI8Z. I think everyone present enjoyed themselves and the presentation by Scott Phillips, N8SX, the Ohio Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator was informational and interesting.

I wouldn't mind having a dinner meeting there in the future. The room was adequate and we were separated from the main dining room. Prices were reasonable, although you did not have to have dinner to attend the meeting.

MANSFIELD HAMFEST REPORT

Once again we trekked on down to the annual Mansfield Hamfest. NI8Z drove, with W8MET, K8KR and myself hitching a ride. As per usual, the weather was nasty. We had patches of white-out snow on the way down and the parking lot was like a sheet of ice. It's that way every year. We had a near death experience rounding a curve on the road leading to the fairgrounds but Gary recovered very well. It's just a good thing there was no on-coming traffic! I had visions of the car rolling over into the ditch and us having to climb out through the side door window! Anyhow, we made it to the hamfest and enjoyed ourselves. Mansfield is always a good hamfest, well attended, with many vendors. I was able to purchase what I was looking for, thanks to Gary for finding it for me. There were several CARS members there, and many hams from Northeastern Ohio that I knew. All in all, a good time was had.

ADIOS MUCHACHAS & MUCHACHOS

(That's Spanish for Gals & Guys. I think.

Time for me to vamoose outta her for this month. Don't forget to attend the March meeting, the second Tuesday of the month and check in on the CARS weekly net. Get on the air and utilize your Amateur Radio privileges. That's what your worked so hard to earn your license for.

See you on the air and/or at the next meeting.

73, de Tom, WB8N

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Please go to www.2cars.org to reserve and pay for your 2013 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

Saturday May 18, 2013 CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention.

Nearly 25,000 hams & non-hams attended Hamvention® 2012. Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Dayton Hamvention at least once. Please join us in 2013, it is an incredible event and offers something for everyone.

The Bus trip will cost $48.00 dollars per person, we will stop for breakfast on the way down, plus have a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to *http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php* to order your tickets.

Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 3:30 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 4:00 am.
When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a CARS meeting, call 440-582-3462 or go to www.2cars.org and click on the Dayton Bus trip link to pay using PayPal. Checks can be mailed to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264 attn. Dayton bus

73, Dwaine, K8ME